

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A dryer for drying toner particles having a predetermined glass transition point (T_g) to create dry free-flowing toner comprising:
a toroidal drying chamber having a curved inner radius portion;
at least one drying gas inlet extending into the drying chamber for introducing heated drying gas into the drying chamber to produce a circulating flow of drying gas having a curved portion;
a feed inlet for introducing wet toner particles into the circulating flow of drying gas thereby exerting centrifugal forces F_c on the toner particles in the curved portion; to dry the wet toner particles, wherein centrifugal forces are exerted on the toner particles in the curved portion of the circulating flow of drying gas; and
an exit path communicating with the drying chamber curved inner radius portion directing an exiting stream of the drying gas out of the drying chamber for creating exiting forces (F_E) on the toner particles in the circulating flow for directing an exiting stream of the drying gas out of the drying chamber to move for moving dry toner particles from the drying chamber when $F_c < F_E$.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 1 wherein the exit path communicates with the curved inner radius portion such that the exiting stream forms an approximate right angle with the curved portion of the circulating flow of drying gas.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one drying gas inlet is angled with respect to the circulating flow of drying gas.

7. (Original) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 1 wherein the heated drying gas is introduced into the drying chamber at a pressure of about 1.0 psi to about 5.0 psi.

8. (Original) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 1 wherein the heated drying gas is introduced into the drying chamber at a pressure of about 1.0 psi to about 1.5 psi.

9. (Original) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 1 wherein the heated drying gas is introduced into the drying chamber at a velocity of about 3,000 feet per minute to about 5,000 feet per minute.

10. (Original) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 1 wherein the heated drying gas is introduced into the drying chamber at a velocity of about 3,800 feet per minute to about 4,200 feet per minute.

11. (Original) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 1 wherein the exiting stream is maintained at a temperature of about 12°C below Tg of the toner particles to about 1°C above Tg of the toner particles.

12. (Original) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 1 wherein the exiting stream is maintained at a temperature of about 8°C below Tg of the toner particles to about 3°C below Tg of the toner particles.

13. (Original) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 11 wherein the heated drying gas is introduced into the drying chamber at a temperature about 15°C above the temperature of the exiting stream to about 40°C above the temperature of the exiting stream.

14. (Original) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 13 wherein the heated drying gas is introduced into the drying chamber at a temperature about 20°C above the temperature of the exiting stream to about 35°C above the temperature of the exiting stream.

15. (New) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 1 wherein the exiting forces are centripetal forces.

16. (New) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 3 wherein the exiting stream forms a predetermined angle with the curved portion of the circulating flow of drying gas for controlling particle cut point.

17. (New) The dryer for drying toner particles defined in claim 16 wherein the exiting stream forms an approximate right angle with the curved portion of the circulating flow of drying gas.